

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of processing an inbound transaction document sent by a trading partner to a user in an electronic commerce system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving the inbound document at an interface for communication with trading partners;

routing the inbound document to a mailbox of the user;

automatically determining a set of candidate reply transaction documents associated with the inbound document and the particular trading partner that sent the inbound document without performing a language analysis of a content of the inbound document, each candidate reply transaction document being a reply to the inbound document independent of any other candidate reply transaction document;

displaying a link to each candidate reply transaction document of said set adjacent to a header of the inbound document in a screen of a mailbox application for the user;

receiving a user selection of a reply transaction document from said candidate set;

parsing the inbound document to determine transaction data relevant to the selected reply document;

automatically populating the selected reply document with said transaction data;

generating a user edit screen displaying the automatically-populated selected transaction reply document, receiving a user input of additional transaction data, and writing said additional data to the reply document; and

transmitting the reply document.

2. **(Previously Presented)** A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system determines the set of candidate reply transaction documents by performing a look-up to a database indexed with the trading partners that are the inbound document senders and the inbound document types.

3. **(Previously Presented)** A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system determines the set of candidate reply transaction documents by operation of a translation engine:

checking the inbound documents for compliance with a standard model, and
sending a negative functional acknowledgement to the trading partner or rejecting the inbound document if the compliance check is negative.

4. **(Original)** A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inbound document is parsed by a translation engine of the system translating the inbound document into a pre-populated selected reply document.

5. **(Original)** A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the translation engine writes the pre-populated selected reply document to a set of data structures in memory, and a mail engine of the system creates a pre-populated HTML reply document for rendering within a browser.

6. **(Original)** A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the additional data is inputted to the system with use of a tool for appending data to fields.

7. **(Original)** A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the additional data is inputted to the system with use of a tool for replacing automatically populated data.

8. **(Currently Amended)** An electronic commerce system for processing an inbound transaction document sent by a trading partner to a user, the system comprising:

means for receiving the inbound document at an interface for communication with trading partners and routing the inbound document to a mailbox of the user;

means for automatically determining a set of candidate reply transaction documents associated with the inbound document and the particular trading partner that sent the inbound document without performing a language analysis of a content of the inbound document, each candidate reply transaction document being a reply to the inbound document independent of any other candidate reply transaction document;

means for displaying a link to each candidate reply transaction document of said set adjacent to a header of the inbound document in a screen of a mailbox application for the user;

means for receiving a user selection of a reply transaction document from said candidate set;

means for parsing the inbound document to determine transaction data relevant to the selected reply document;

means for automatically populating the selected reply document with said transaction data;

means for generating a user edit screen displaying the automatically-populated selected transaction reply document, receiving a user input of additional transaction data, and writing said additional data to the reply document; and

means for transmitting the reply document.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising computer readable code on a computer readable medium that when executing on a digital computer, processes an inbound document sent by a trading partner, the computer readable code comprising.

code for receiving the inbound document at an interface for communication with trading partners and routing the inbound document to a mailbox of the user;

code for automatically determining a set of candidate reply transaction documents associated with the inbound document and the particular trading partner that sent the inbound document without performing a language analysis of a content of the inbound document, each candidate reply transaction document being a reply to the inbound document independent of any other candidate reply transaction document;

code for displaying a link to each candidate reply transaction document of said set adjacent to a header of the inbound document in a screen of a mailbox application for the user;

code for receiving a user selection of a reply transaction document from said candidate set;

code for parsing the inbound document to determine transaction data relevant to the selected reply document;

code for automatically populating the selected reply document with said transaction data;

code for generating a user edit screen displaying the automatically-populated selected transaction reply document, receiving a user input of additional transaction data, and writing said additional data to the reply document; and

code for transmitting the reply document.